

2A • TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 1998 • USA TODAY

NATIONLINE

Report: Further UFO study should be done

Scientists reviewing reports of UFOs have concluded that some sightings are accompanied by compelling physical evidence that merits further study, according to a report to be published Monday. A nine-member panel said there was no convincing evidence that extraterrestrial intelligence was responsible for the physical evidence. But the scientists added that some of the physical evidence remained unexplained and researchers might learn something new in evaluating purported UFO sightings.

"If there is an interest in trying to get serious answers to the UFO problem, it would be sensible for scientists to focus on the physical evidence as opposed to witness testimony," Stanford University physicist and panel director Peter Sturrock said in an interview Sunday night. The panel's report is the first independent review of UFO phenomena since 1966, when the U.S. Air Force commissioned the University of Colorado to conduct a scientific study of UFOs headed by Dr. Edward Condon. Sturrock's panel examined photographs of purported UFOs, radar data and reports of soil damage near supposed UFO landing sights.